

WILLIAM AIRD and son HENRY

William Aird was born March 3, 1821, in Scotland. Early in life he was converted to the gospel and advanced to the position of Elder in the LDS religion. He did missionary work in his homeland before coming to America later that same year.

The young family left Scotland on March 18, 1853, and arrived in America on May 10, 1853. It was through their conversion to the "Mormon" church that they decided to leave the old country where they had been born and raised; however, they were quite upset when they learned that some members of the church were practicing polygamy. They, as many other members of the church, refused to accept this practice, but they retained their membership in the church and attained high offices in church and civic activities.

William was a weaver by trade and also a farmer and stockman. He owned the first spinning wheel and loom in Wasatch County. His wife, Elizabeth McClean Aird helped him in this work and they wove cloth for their family clothing and for many others in the valley. They got their wool from John M. Murdock who was in charge of the communities sheep.

William and Elizabeth Aird's children also distinguished themselves in church and civic affairs. Their son, William, died at the age of seven. Henry M., Doctor John W., Elizabeth, Janet and Grace were born to them. Henry was one year old when the family came to Heber, the others were born in Heber, Wasatch County.

William Aird died on July 4, 1889, at age 68.

Henry McClean Aird was born Sept. 18, 1860. He married Jessie Quinn on June 25, 1891. She died April 10, 1892 in childbirth. On July 15, 1893, Henry married Violet Ryan. As a child, Henry attended school in Heber and then he attended the University of Deseret in Salt Lake City, now known as the University of Utah. He was 24 years old when he graduated from this University.

The William Aird family didn't have many worldly goods but they grew up in a family which believed in sacrifice and hard work. He walked many times between Salt Lake City and his home in Heber. He wore clothes tailored by his father while he attended University.

Henry graduated in 1884 and one school term later he was teaching school in Heber's "Sleepy Hollow" school. For the next 20 years of his life, he devoted his time to teaching in Heber schools.

In 1904 the Airds moved from Heber to Provo Bench where they acquired a fruit farm. However, Henry continued with his teaching until he retired in 1919. In addition to his teaching, he loved to write verse, much of which was put to music. His outstanding achievement in this field was a song which he composed in 1906 entitled "Hail to Thee, Utah". For his creation of this song, he was awarded \$500 by a Salt Lake newspaper, as a sponsor of a contest.

After retirement from teaching, Henry and family moved to Provo, a few years later they moved to Lynnwood, Calif. They were living there when he died on April 20, 1928. He was buried in Heber City Cemetery.

Violet Ryan Aird was born July 5, 1870 in Charleston, to William M. and Floweretta Fraughton Ryan. She was educated in Heber schools and the Brigham Young Academy, now the BYU of Provo. Her first job was teaching school in Buysville (now west end of Daniel), Wasatch County. She was 17 years old. Then the next two years she taught school in Charleston, then one year in Center Creek. During these years, she saved enough money to return to the Brigham Young Academy where she completed her education.

Following her graduation, she taught school one year in Heber City where Henry M. Aird was principal. After their move to Provo Bench, Violet continued to teach for several years.

Soon after Henry's death in California, Violet returned to Provo to live until she died. The children were Iva Violet, Lyall Chloe, Wallace Linden, Virginia Floweretta, Walter Henry and Dorothy Jean.

Henry Aird's sister, Elizabeth married Gustaf Ludwig Anderson, a merchant and farmer of Heber. Her son, John A. Anderson was the one who established Anderson's Hardware and Furniture Store now owned by Hansen and operates under the Anderson name, on North Main Street of Heber. Her daughter is Isabell Lewis Sweat of Heber.

Henry's brother, Dr. John William Aird was born September 26, 1863 in Heber City. He was one of six children. He attended Heber schools and then he went to the University of Deseret, now University of Utah.

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